

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7120

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor Judge Thomas J. Wright on the occasion of his retirement from the bench.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to honor an outstanding jurist who, having faithfully discharged his duties for many years, is embarking upon a much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Judge Thomas J. Wright is one such noteworthy jurist, who has served the good people of this State as Senior Judge since his appointment to the position by the Tennessee Supreme Court in 2021; and

WHEREAS, cases that Judge Wright presided over as a senior judge included Board of Professional Responsibility hearings involving attorney conduct, criminal cases in other jurisdictions, and divorce and child custody disputes; and

WHEREAS, before being appointed as a senior judge, Thomas J. Wright served with distinction as Circuit Court Judge for the 3rd Judicial District from 2006 to 2021; and

WHEREAS, Judge Wright's prior judicial experience also includes an eight-year tenure as Greene County General Sessions and Juvenile Court Judge, serving from 1998 to 2006; and

WHEREAS, held in high regard by his legal colleagues across the state, Judge Wright's distinguished career further encompasses service in private practice and as a federal judicial law clerk and assistant federal community defender; and

WHEREAS, Judge Thomas J. Wright graduated with honors from the University of Arkansas in 1980 and received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Tennessee Law School in 1983; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his profession, Judge Wright is a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation and a member of the Tennessee Judicial Conference; he serves his community as a Greene Young Life Leader, Greene County board member of the FCA,

Greeneville High School football team chaplain, and lay speaker at Asbury United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Judge Thomas J. Wright is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Dawn, and their children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Judge Wright exemplifies the commitment to equality and justice under the law that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Judge Thomas J. Wright has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his fellow members of the bench and bar, the parties appearing before his court, and the citizens of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Judge Thomas J. Wright our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, applauding his years of dedicated public service and wishing him every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.